WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A commerce site for exchanging commerce information with a plurality of

2   remote store sites and shopper clients over a computer network, the commerce site

3   comprising:

4   a marketplace store for exchanging information with shopper clients and

5   remote store sites through the computer network; and

6   a plurality of proxy stores, each proxy store associated with one of the remote

7   store sites for communicating therewith over the computer network and acting as an

8   intermediary for information exchanged between the associated remote store site and

9   the marketplace store.

1   2.   The commerce site of claim 1, further comprising:

2   a catalog identifying an aggregation of assets offered through a plurality of

3   remote store sites connected to the computer network; wherein

4   the marketplace store has access to the catalog for creating a parent list

5   identifying assets selected from the catalog by one of the shopper clients over the

6   network; and

7   each proxy store is configured for reading the parent list and creating a first

8   request identifying at least some of the assets in the parent list and sending the first

9   request over the computer network to the remote store site associated therewith.

1   3.   The commerce site of claim 2, wherein each proxy store is configured for

2   (a) receiving an associated initial quote response from its associated remote store site

3   in reply to the first request, the initial quote response identifying at least some of the

4   assets identified in the first request and associated prices, and (b) creating an

5   associated initial quote list identifying the assets and associated prices identified in

6   the initial quote response, the commerce site including an interface for presenting to

7   the shopper client the initial quote lists associated with a plurality of the proxy stores.

1   4.   The commerce site of claim 3, wherein an associated initial quote response

2   can identify substitute assets and associated prices in place of at least some of the

3   assets identified in the first request, each proxy store being configured to identify in

4   the initial quote list associated therewith any substitute assets and associated prices

5   identified in the initial quote response received by the proxy store, the commerce site

6   interface permitting a client shopper to select assets and substitute assets from the

7   presented initial quote lists, each proxy store being further configured for (c) creating

8   an associated selection list identifying the assets and substitute assets selected by the

9   client shopper from the initial quote list associated with the proxy store, and (d)

10   sending the associated selection list over the computer network to the computer

11   remote store associated therewith.

1   5.   The commerce site of claim 4, wherein the marketplace store is configured to

2   assign a unique identifier to each asset listed in the parent list, each proxy store being

3   configured to assign a correlation ID to each asset and substitute asset listed in the

4   initial quote and selection lists thereby correlating the assets listed therein to assets

5   listed in the parent list.

1   6.   The commerce site of claim 3, wherein the parent list includes, for each

2   identified asset, a desired quantity of the asset as selected by the shopper client, the

3   proxy stores including the desired quantities in the first requests associated therewith,

4   the initial quote responses each identifying an available quantity of the assets

5   identified therein, the available quantity being included in the presented initial quote

6   lists, the commerce site interface permitting a client shopper to select assets from the

7   presented initial quote lists and specify an updated desired quantity of the selected

8   assets, each proxy store being further configured for (c) creating an associated

9   selection list identifying the assets selected by the client shopper from the initial

10   quote list associated with the proxy store and the specified updated desired quantity

11   thereof, and (d) sending the associated selection list over network to the remote store

12   associated therewith.

1   7.   The commerce site of claim 6, wherein the initial quote responses include a

2   projected availability date for the assets identified therein and a quantity of the asset

3   available on the availability date.

1   8.   The commerce site of claim 3, the commerce site interface permitting a client

2   shopper to select assets from the presented initial quote lists, each proxy store being

3   further configured for (c) creating an associated selection list identifying the assets

4   selected by the client shopper from the initial quote list associated with the proxy

5   store, and (d) sending the associated selection list over network to the remote store

6   associated therewith.

1   9.   The commerce site of claim 8, each proxy store further configured for (e)

2   receiving an associated further quote response from its associated remote store site in

3   reply to the selection list, the further quote response identifying the assets identified

4   in the selection list and associated prices, and (f) creating an associated further quote

5   list identifying the assets and associated prices identified in the further quote

6   response; the commerce site interface configured for presenting to the shopper client

7   the further quote lists.

1   10.   The commerce site of claim 9, the commerce site interface permitting a client

2   shopper to select assets from the presented further quote lists, each proxy store being

3   further configured for (g) updating the associated selection list associated therewith to

4   identify the assets selected by the client shopper from the further quote list associated

5   with the proxy store, and (h) sending the updated selection list over network to the

6   remote store associated therewith.

1   11.   The commerce site of claim 2, wherein the marketplace catalog, marketplace

2   store and the proxy stores are all resident on a common computer coupled to the

3   computer network.

1   12.   The commerce site of claim 2, wherein each proxy store is configured to

2   receive status information from the remote store associated therewith about orders for

3   assets submitted to the remote store associated therewith, the commerce site including

4   an interface for presenting the status information to a requesting shopper client.

1   13.   The commerce site of claim 1, wherein each proxy store is configured for

2   receiving and storing inventory information received from the remote store associated

3   therewith.

1   14.   A method of processing information through a network connected to a

2   marketplace commerce site, a plurality of remote store sites, and a shopper client, the

3   method comprising the steps of:

4   a) providing at the commerce site a catalog identifying an aggregation of

5   assets available through the remote store sites;

6   b) providing at the commerce site a marketplace store interface through which

7   a shopper at the shopper client can select assets from the catalog;

8   c) providing at the commerce site a plurality of proxy stores, each proxy store

9   representing an associated remote store site;

10   d) generating and storing at the marketplace commerce site, a parent order

11   object that includes a parent list of parent items, each parent item identifying an

12   associated asset selected by the shopper from the catalog; and

13   e) generating first requests at selected proxy stores that are associated with

14   remote store sites specified by the shopper first request, each of the selected proxy

15   stores sending the first request generated thereby to its associated remote store over

16   the network, the first requests each identifying assets identified in the parent list.

1   15.   The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

2   f) receiving at the proxy stores from the remote store sites associated

3   therewith a first quote response identifying quote prices for at least some of the assets

4   identified in the first requests; and

5   g) generating at each proxy store receiving a first quote response an associated

6   first child object that includes a list of first quote items, each first quote item

7   including: (i) an asset identifier identifying a quoted asset for which a first quote has

8   been received, (ii) the quote price for the quoted asset, (iii) an available quantity of

9   the quoted asset, and (iv) a correlation ID linking the first quote item to a

10   corresponding one of the parent items.

1   16.   The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

2   h) presenting through the marketplace commerce site information included in

3   the first child objects generated by the proxy stores and accepting shopper selections

4   of assets identified in the first child objects;

5   i) generating the proxy stores associated second child objects that each include

6   a list of selected items identifying the assets and a quantity thereof selected by the

7   shopper from the first child object associated with the proxy store; and

8   j) sending further requests from the proxy stores to the associated remote store

9   sites, the further request from each proxy store including identification of selected

10   assets and the quantity thereof from the associated second child object.

1   17.   The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

2   receiving at proxy stores from the remote store sites associated therewith

3   status information about previous orders for assets made to the associated remote

4   store sites.

1   18.   The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

2   receiving at proxy stores from the remote store sites associated therewith

3   inventory information about assets available through the associated remote store sites,

4   and storing the received inventory information at the marketplace commerce site.

1   19.   A computer program product having a computer-readable medium tangibly
2   embodying computer executable instructions for a marketplace site that
3   communicates with a plurality of remote store sites and a shopper client over a
4   network, the computer executable instructions comprising:

5   (a) computer executable instructions for implementing a catalog identifying
6   an aggregation of assets available through the remote store sites;

7   (b) computer executable instructions for implementing a marketplace store
8   interface through which a shopper at the shopper client can select assets from the
9   catalog, the marketplace store interface configured for generating and storing at the
10   marketplace site, a parent order object that includes a parent list of parent items, each
11   parent item identifying an associated asset selected by the shopper from the catalog;
12   and

13   c) computer executable instructions for implementing a plurality of proxy
14   stores, each proxy store representing an associated remote store site, the proxy stores
15   configured for generating associated first requests and sending the generated first
16   requests to the remote store sites associated therewith, the first requests each
17   identifying assets identified in the parent list.

1   20.   A communications signal having modulated thereon computer executable
2   instructions for a marketplace site that communicates with a plurality of remote store
3   sites and a shopper client over a network, the computer executable instructions
4   comprising:

5   (a) computer executable instructions for implementing a catalog identifying an
6   aggregation of assets available through the remote store sites;

7   (b) computer executable instructions for implementing a marketplace store
8   interface through which a shopper at the shopper client can select assets from the
9   catalog, the marketplace store interface configured for generating and storing at the
10   marketplace site, a parent order object that includes a parent list of parent items, each
11   parent item identifying an associated asset selected by the shopper from the catalog;
12   and

13   c) computer executable instructions for implementing a plurality of proxy

14   stores, each proxy store representing an associated remote store commerce site, the

15   proxy stores configured for generating associated first requests and sending the

16   generated first requests to the remote store sites associated therewith, the first

17   requests each identifying assets identified in the parent list.